

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓
Please delete " Patent Claims" and insert -- WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: --.

✓
Please delete claims 1 to 4 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

✓
Please add new claims 5 to 8 as follows:

--5. (New) A communications and measurement apparatus, comprising:

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a cuboid housing;

a front face coupled to the housing;

a display unit coupled to the front face; and

a back-plane coupled to the housing, wherein the back-plane

includes a first plurality of openings arranged side-by-side, each one of the plurality of openings being adapted to receive a plug-in module, wherein at least one of the plug-in modules comprises a data processing module, wherein the back-plane includes an additional plurality of openings for receiving a plurality of additional modules and an extra module, wherein the additional modules form external interfaces for at least one of a plurality of measurement lines and data transmission lines, wherein the extra module is arranged between the additional modules and the data processing module, wherein the extra module includes a component-carrying side facing the data processing module, and wherein the additional modules and the extra module are arranged on a common back-plane.